

ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes**

March 17, 2006

Hello Friends:

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT**

This week proved to be another busy one, as my colleagues and I worked day and night on the **Governor's bond proposals**. Negotiations over the bonds came to their climax on Wednesday night, when I voted for passage of **SB 69**, a \$10.4 billion education bond and **SB 74**, a \$4.15 billion levee enhancement bond. Additionally, I also fought hard for and won inclusion of a provision calling for a one percent increase in per-unhoused-pupil grant funding.

The **Senate** also approved an appropriation of \$1 billion for levee repairs, but neither house took up the other's measures because the **Senate** had already adjourned by the time the **Assembly** passed its version of the bonds.

I am disappointed that the **Senate** adjourned well before we could come to an agreement on the bond provisions for placement on the June ballot, but that does not mean the fight for our **schools, surface storage, and Highway 99** is over. These are subjects that cannot take a back seat to politics and legislative gridlock, and I am confident that my colleagues and I can come to a compromise on these critical issues by November.

It is important to note, though, the groundwork that has been laid for our students throughout these negotiations with the one percent increase in un-housed pupil monies. The one percent bump, along with **AB 2045**, school hardship legislation I am authoring, will help level the educational playing field for our most financially troubled school districts, especially in the **Central Valley**, as they begin building and modernizing their facilities to effectively accommodate increasing student enrollment rates. I cannot stress how important it is to ensure that all our children, wherever their schools may fall on the map, have access to the best possible education in the best possible facilities. That is why I worked to bring attention to these matters and I am proud that my colleagues noticed their importance by supporting the education bond overwhelmingly.

**NOW, TO THE REST OF THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO**

Every year, the **California Council for Adult Education (CCAIE)** organizes its annual legislative day, and so, as part of this event, I met with a representative from the **Bakersfield Adult School (BAS)**. We discussed some of the challenges facing adult education, but we specifically focused on the reauthorization of the **Community Based Educational Tutoring (CBET) Program** and the role of adult education in preparing adult and high school students for the **California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)**. It was great hearing about the success the **Bakersfield Adult School** is having with its students as they work to prepare them for the next stage in their lives.

The **Bakersfield Adult School** has provided services to our community since 1917 and today serves over 30,000 students, attending both day and night courses in over 20 different locations. The **BAS** is California's 8th largest adult school.

To find out more about the **BAS**, please visit their web site at <http://www.khsd.k12.ca.us/bas>

I also met with **Assemblymen Juan Arambula** and **Michael Villines**, along with **Sandra Shewry**, the **Director the State Department of Health Services**. We sat down to discuss the financial problems plaguing local health care facilities in the state. Many of these health care providers are losing significant monies, and so, we met with **Director Shewry** to urge the state to negotiate a fairer Medi-Cal rate of reimbursement for these facilities. The last thing we need to be doing is making it more difficult for these facilities to provide the health care services so many people depend upon.

Later in the week I met with students from the **University of California, Berkeley** as part of their **Cal Lobby Day**. About 200 students traveled to the **State Capitol** to meet with legislators in order to establish relationships with elected officials and, also, to relay their thoughts and concerns on the state of higher education in California.

I always love sitting down with young people who show such a passionate interest in public affairs and who also exhibit a commitment to positive causes. I applaud all the students who came to **Sacramento** this week, because their energy and their action is an inspiration.

To learn more about **Cal Lobby Day**, please visit <http://www.asuc.org/lobbyday/>

Last night, I attended the **46<sup>th</sup> Annual Delano Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**. I really had a great time at the event and enjoyed presenting certificates to the evening's awardees. Congratulations to the following individuals, groups, and businesses for their great work:

**Agribusiness of the Year:** (San Joaquin Bank) Honey Bucket Farms

**Business of the Year:** (Delano District Skilled Nursing Facility) Delano Regional Medical Center- DRMC

**Customer Service-Excellence Award:** (Delano Family Motors) Rachel's Flower Shop

**Civic Organization of the Year:** (Union Bank of California) Cinco de Mayo Fiestas, Inc.

**Delano Beautiful-Commercial Award:** (Stewart Title of California) Community Worship Center

**Dr. John R. Montgomery Award:** (Terry Medical Clinic) Judi Herrick, R.N.

**Doc Smith Award:** (Delano Regional Medical Center) Harold Nelson

**Educator of the Year Award:** (Delano Energy Company) Ken Dyar

**Employee of the Year Award:** (Delano Rotary Club) Dee Tinkle

**Hazel Boone Award:** (Lane Family Funeral Home) Brenda Delay

**Man of the Year Award:** (Pandol Brothers) Lucio "Chio" Gonzales

**New Business of the Year:** (Sears Logistic Service) Temper Girl

**Woman of the Year Award:** (Soroptimist International of Delano) Rosalina Chavez Rivera

To read more on the **Delano Chamber of Commerce**, please check out their web site at <http://www.delanocc.com/>

This morning, I visited with **Ms. Cook's** 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at **John Muir Jr. High**. The class wrote a persuasive paper on the topic of educating students on how to prevent skin cancer. Based on this paper, they would like to approach the school board to allow students to wear hats during their physical education courses for protection from overexposure to the sun.

I would like to congratulate **Ms. Cook** and her students on taking such a pro-active approach to an important issue. Their energy and motivation to follow through in implementing this worthy policy is impressive and I wish them luck in their endeavors. At the end of the students' presentation, I informed them that I would look into the possibility of putting together legislation based on their ideas.

Earlier today, I joined **Bryn Forhan** for a tour of **Community Medical Center** in downtown **Hanford**. **Community Medical Center** has a long history of serving the health care needs of the people who live in central California.

Just a bit ago, I sat down with local government representatives from **Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties** to discuss **AB 1878**, legislation I am authoring this year. **AB 1878** would create an advisory council with membership from **Merced, Madera, Tulare, Fresno and Kings Counties**. Their principle duties would entail the development and adoption of a southern **San Joaquin Valley** regional element of the transportation plan required by state and federal law. This regional element would subsequently be included in the regional transportation plans of each council of governments that participates in the advisory council.

### **ONGOING EVENT**

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the **Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College**. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at **1-800-773-1669** or visit [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov). The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24<sup>th</sup> 2006**.

### **Youth In Need**

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- **Partnering with youth**
- **Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California**
- **Advocating for youth rights**
- **Connecting youth to resources**
- **Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders**

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's** toll-free number, **1-800-843-5200**.

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework**

**Help.** This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

### **CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION**

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov).

### **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

### **\*\*\*NEW SECTION – ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY\*\*\***

**1756:** St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in New York City for the first time. The event took place at the Crown and Thistle Tavern.

**1870:** Wellesley College was incorporated by the Massachusetts legislature under its first name, Wellesley Female Seminary.

**1917:** America's first bowling tournament for ladies began in St. Louis, Missouri. Almost 100 women participated in the event.

**1942:** Douglas MacArthur became the Supreme Commander of the United Nations forces in the Southwestern Pacific.

**1973:** The first American prisoners of war (POWs) were released from the "Hanoi Hilton" in Hanoi, North Vietnam.

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